

FRIEND OF THE COURT BUREAU ADVISORY COMMITTEE STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Friend of the Court Bureau Advisory Committee was created by the Michigan Legislature in P.A. 294 of 1982. The Committee was designed to be representative of a cross section of citizens who deal with the Michigan domestic relations system. There are nine members who are appointed to serve on the committee (three public members, three attorney members, and three human service professionals). In addition the State Court Administrator appoints two non-voting members who represent the Michigan Friends of the Court.

The Committee's primary purpose is to advise the Friend of the Court Bureau in its performance of its duties under the Friend of the Court Act. The Committee reviews a number of Friend of the Court Bureau work products and frequently identifies subjects that might benefit from further discussion or research. The Advisory Committee does not have any power or authority over local Friend of the Court operations. The Committee listens to members of the public for purposes of making recommendations regarding policy. However, the Committee cannot intervene in individual cases.

In addition, the Friend of the Court Bureau Advisory Committee makes recommendations to the State Court Administrator on appropriate policies and procedures pertaining generally to the domestic relations system.

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